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No. V.

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COLLECTION OF ANTIQUITIES

PRESENTED TO

THE ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY,

BY

WILLIAM T. MULVANY, ESQ., M. R. I. A.,

ON THE PART OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS IN IRELAND.

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Read January 26, and February 9, 1852.

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As the member of the Board of Public Works in charge of the department of Arterial Drainage and Inland Navigation in Ireland, I have the honour, on the part of my colleagues and myself, to present to the Academy a collection of antiquities obtained in the execution of the works by the engineers and other officers of the Board. I have also the pleasure to present the private collection of antiquities of Mr. R. A. Gray, one of our engineers; and to exhibit a number of articles, the property of private individuals in Strokestown, in the county of Roscommon, which have been lent to me for that purpose.

The operations of the Board of Works in this department, extending over a very large portion of the island, have been in progress for about nine years, and have cost, up to the present time, about £1,458,000; and, besides the accomplishment of the direct objects of improved agriculture and trade, for which they have been promoted, these operations are full of interest to the scientific man, as regards various hydraulic and hydrodynamic questions, and the relations between the fall of rain and discharge of water from different areas of country of different characters; full of interest to the geologist, from the secrets of nature which, whether in her ancient or more modern laboratory, are laid bare by the deep cuts through strata of various formations in the lowest valleys in the country; and, finally, full of interest to the antiquary, who through their aid finds the beds of deep rivers and lakes laid dry for the first time, the shoals dried and cut through, which, before bridges were